constant endeavour of All India Radio to put out the best of programmes by bringing innovative pattern of programmes and style of presentation, which is becoming popular among the listeners, and is generating commercial revenue. The content of private FM stations also have to conform to programme and Advertisement Codes applicable to AIR.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Advertisements of Ministries regarding their performance

2212. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the full page advertisements appearing in almost all the newspapers sponsored by almost all the Ministries with photographs of the Prime Minister and the Ministers of respective Ministries and their achievements;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred by each Ministry on such advertisements during the last two years; year-wise and Ministry-wise; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to stop the wasteful expenditure of the Ministries on this account?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) : Publicity of schemes, activities and achievements is essential for the information dissemination by the Ministries/ Departments of the Government. Information regarding details of expenditure is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Efforts to make Doordarshan programmes entertaining

†2213. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that after setting up of Prasar Bharati, some specific efforts have been made to make the programmes of Doordarshan effective and full of entertainment; and

(b) if so, the details of these efforts and the achievements made by means of the same until now?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati have intimated that the proposals so received are evaluated by an evaluation committee

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and Pilots are previewed by a selection committee, associating outside resource persons/experts in the field of performing arts, to ensure quality and objectivity and transparency in selection. Selection is made on the basis of content and technical excellence of Production. This will ensure acquisition of good quality programmes.

Doordarshan has revised its guidelines for sourcing its programmes under various categories including entertainment.

Supply of Video Compression System

2214. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a 5-Channel Video Compression system supplied by M/s Gujarat Communication and Electronics Ltd. in 1995 at a cost of more than Rs.. three crore did not work;

(b) whether R&D wing of Doordarshan upgraded this system ;

(c) if so, at what cost;

(d) whether the liquidated charges amounting to Rs. 16.52 lakh have not been realised; and

(e) the steps being taken to realise the charges from the firm?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) The order for supply, installation and commissioning of 5 channel video compression system, for an experimental project of R&D wing of Doordarshan, at a cost of Rs. 3.30 crores was placed on M/s GCEL in January, 1995. As per terms of the order the MPEG-I system was to be supplied by 15-1-95 and to be later upgraded to MPEG-II system by 30th June, 1995. MPEG-1 compression system was installed and commissioned on 15-1-95 and later upgraded to MPEG-II system in April 2000 by the firm, at no extra cost. As per terms of the supply order, penalty of a maximum of 5% of the cost of equipment could be imposed on the supplier for delay in supply of equipment. 10% payment to the firm has been withheld and out of this, liquidated charges are to be realized.

Concession to entertainment sector

2215. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for providing more concession to the entertainment sector;